

## CRICKET TASMANIA AIR QUALITY POLICY

Tasmania has some of the cleanest air in the world. However, the summer months see an increased incidence of bushfires, creating large blankets of smoke which can have an impact on outdoor activities, including cricket.

How smoke affects someone depends on their age, medical conditions (such as heart or lung disease, or asthma) and how long they are exposed to the smoke. Children are more sensitive to breathing in small smoke particles.

The localised nature of bushfires, and the impact prevailing weather conditions have on the movement of smoke means that it is not practical for Cricket Tasmania to enact a blanket policy in relation to playing matches in regions affected by bushfires.

### POLICY

Cricket Tasmania's policy is for decisions on playing cricket in smoke-affected areas to be made by the appointed umpires (or coaches if no umpires have been appointed) at individual venues, as for other weather events such as rain, lightning or poor light. The Laws of Cricket (2015 code) specify the umpires' role in determining each ground's fitness for play in Clauses 3.8 and 3.9, as stated below:

#### **3.8 – Fitness for Play**

*(a) It is solely for the umpires together to decide whether either conditions of ground, weather or light or exceptional circumstances mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place.*

*Conditions shall not be regarded as either dangerous or unreasonable merely because they are not ideal.*

*(b) Conditions shall be regarded as dangerous if there is actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire.*

*(c) Conditions shall be regarded as unreasonable if, although posing no risk to safety, it would not be sensible for play to proceed.*

#### **3.9 – Suspension of Play in Dangerous or Unreasonable Conditions**

*(a) All references to ground include the pitch. See Law 7.1 (Area of pitch).*

*(b) If at any time the umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather or light, or any other circumstances are dangerous or unreasonable, they shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to start or to recommence.*

*(c) When there is a suspension of play it is the responsibility of the umpires to monitor conditions. They shall make inspections as often as appropriate, unaccompanied by any players or officials. Immediately the umpires together agree that the conditions are no longer dangerous or unreasonable they shall call upon the players to resume play.*

**Note:** Cricket Tasmania will only seek to cancel or abandon all games for the day in exceptional circumstances such as an active bushfire causing road closures and/or threatening multiple venues, evacuation notices and public health alerts for people to stay indoors.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to support decision-making, Cricket Tasmania makes the following recommendations:

1. Players or umpires with pre-existing cardio-respiratory conditions, including asthma, must take additional precautions when outdoors in smoky conditions. Participants with these conditions will often demonstrate symptoms of being affected by smoke earlier than others, and may experience wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing. They should follow their asthma action plan, or their plan for managing flare-ups of other conditions. If they don't have a plan they should see their GP to prepare one.
2. Play should be delayed or suspended where smoke has an impact on player and/or umpire visibility. This includes picking the ball up out of the background, and the entire playing surface being visible.
3. Play should be delayed or suspended when any players and/or umpires are demonstrating physical symptoms of being affected by smoke. This includes itchy or burning eyes, sore throat, runny nose and a cough.
4. Resources such as the [AirRater](#) app and the [EPA's Real Time Air Quality Data](#) can be used to provide a snapshot of the air quality as measured at base stations around the state. These tools measure the concentration of smoke particles in micrograms per cubic metre. Two readings are typically provided, a PM<sup>10</sup> measurement for the concentration of large particles (usually dust, sea salt or gases) and a PM<sup>2.5</sup> measurement for the concentration of small particles (typically smoke).

The higher the PM<sup>2.5</sup> reading the greater the concentration of smoke particles in an area. Cricket Tasmania proposes the following ratings scale to assist in evaluating smoke particle density and the likelihood of it impacting on participant safety:

- i. A PM<sup>2.5</sup> measurement of 25 micrograms per cubic metre or higher will trigger an Air Quality Notification from the EPA. At this level those with cardio-respiratory conditions such as asthma, especially children, should initiate their action plan and consider whether participation in an active game is safe for them.
- ii. A PM<sup>2.5</sup> measurement of more than 100 micrograms per cubic metre would likely make exercising outdoors uncomfortable for even those without a cardio-respiratory condition, and umpires should consider delaying or suspending play until conditions improve, or abandoning play.

Air-quality readings should not take the place of the subjective assessment of conditions by umpires at individual grounds. Readings are taken at selected weather base stations around the state, and depending on the prevailing weather system, conditions could be markedly different at cricket grounds in the area. The data should only be used to support decision-making.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on air quality, outdoor smoke and health alerts, please consult the resources listed below:

### **Outdoor Smoke and Your Health – Department of Health and Human Services**

[https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air/bushfire\\_smoke](https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air/bushfire_smoke).

### **Air Quality – Department of Health and Human Services**

<https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/air>

### **EPA Real-Time Air Quality Data**

<http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/real-time-air-quality-data-for-tasmania>

### **AirRater APP – for Android or iOS devices**

<http://airrater.org/>

### **TasAlert – Official Tasmanian Government emergency services website**

<http://www.alert.tas.gov.au/>